

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title at page 1, line 1 and page 33, line 1 as follows:

INFLATABLE LOWER BODY THERMAL BLANKET

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 / 26. (Amended) An inflatable thermal blanket for covering and bathing a
2 portion of a patient's body with thermally-controlled air, comprising:

3 a flexible base sheet having a first end forming a first end of the
4 thermal blanket, a second end forming a second end of the thermal blanket,
5 two edges forming respective edges of the thermal blanket, and an
6 undersurface forming an undersurface of the thermal blanket;

7 the first end, the second end, and respective edges of the base sheet
8 forming a periphery of the thermal blanket;

9 the base sheet including a first layer of flexible material and a
10 second layer of plastic material co-extensive with, and laminated to, the
11 first layer of flexible material;

12 an overlying flexible material sheet attached to the layer of plastic
13 material by a plurality of seals to form the base sheet and the overlying
14 sheet into an inflatable covering [which has a plurality of interconnected
15 inflatable chambers];

16 a seal between the overlaying material sheet and the base sheet
17 around the periphery;

18 said inflatable [chambers in said] covering for substantially
19 longitudinal disposition over a portion of said [a] patient's body extending
20 substantially from the pelvic area of said patient's body to the feet of said
21 patient's body;

22 an inflating inlet for admitting thermally controlled air into the
23 inflatable [chambers to inflate the] covering;

24 a plurality of apertures opening through the base sheet into the
25 inflatable covering [chambers] for exhausting thermally controlled air from
26 the [inflatable chambers through the base sheet in response to inflation and
27 erection of the] inflatable covering; and

28 [a seal between the overlaying material sheet and the base sheet
29 around the periphery]

30 a non-inflatable foot extension formed in the inflatable covering at
31 the second end for covering and warming said patient's feet.

1 ² 27. (Amended) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim ¹ ~~26~~, wherein said
2 thermal blanket is self-erecting [further including a non-inflatable foot extension formed
3 in the inflatable covering at the second end for enclosing and warming a patient's feet in
4 response to inflation of the inflatable covering].

3

1

1 ~~28.~~ (Amended) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim ~~26~~ [27], wherein the
2 C non-inflatable foot extension comprises ^a the non-inflatable extension of the inflatable
3 covering beyond the second end.

4

1

1 ~~29.~~ (Amended) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim ~~26~~ [27], wherein the
2 non-inflatable foot extension includes an extension of the base sheet beyond the second
3 end.

5

1

1 ~~30.~~ (Amended) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim ~~26~~ [27], wherein the
2 plurality of seals are discontinuous elongate seams formed between the overlaying material
3 sheet and the sheet of plastic material.

6

5

1 ~~31.~~ (Amended) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim ~~30~~, wherein the
2 discontinuous elongate seams form the overlaying material sheet into a [the] plurality of
3 inflatable chambers, the plurality of inflatable chambers including parallel, communicating
4 tubular chambers.

7

5

1 ~~32.~~ (Amended) The thermal blanket of Claim ~~30~~, wherein the non-inflatable
2 foot extension includes an extension of the base sheet beyond the second end.

1 8 ~~33~~. (Amended) A thermal care system including the inflatable thermal
2 blanket of Claim ~~26~~ [27], and further including:

3 a heater/blower assembly for providing a source of heated air; and

4 a connecting hose coupled to the heater/blower assembly and to the inflating inlet
5 for conducting heated air from the heater/blower assembly into the inflatable covering.

9 34.

(Amended) A method of warming a patient [person] using a thermal blanket including an inflatable space formed between a flexible base sheet and an overlaying material sheet attached to the base sheet by a peripheral seal around the periphery of the thermal blanket and a plurality of seals inside the periphery of the thermal blanket [that form the base sheet and overlaying material sheet into an inflatable covering with a plurality of interconnected inflatable chambers], a non-inflatable section formed in a portion of the inflatable thermal blanket, and apertures that open into the inflatable space through the flexible base sheet for exhausting air from the inflatable space, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing the thermal blanket to substantially longitudinally dispose the inflatable space [chambers] over a portion of a patient's body extending substantially from the pelvic area of said patient's body to the feet of said patient's body, with the non-inflatable section disposed over the patient's feet;

inflating the thermal blanket with warmed air; [and]

exhausting warmed air through the apertures in the flexible sheet; and

using the non-inflatable section, retaining heat under the thermal blanket near the patient's feet.